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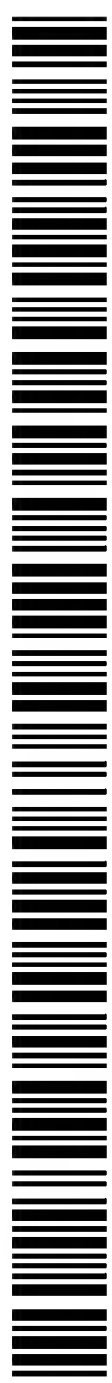
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(54) Title: POROUS MATERIALS AND METHOD OF PRODUCTION THEREOF

(57) Abstract: Water dispersible or water soluble porous bodies comprising a three dimensional open-cell lattice containing 10 to 95 % by weight of a polymeric material which is soluble in water, and, less than 5 % by weight of a surfactant, said porous bodies having an intrusion volume as measured by mercury porosimetry (as hereinafter described) of at least about 3 ml/g, and, with the proviso that said porous bodies are not spherical beads having an average bead diameter of 0.2 to 5mm. And a method for making the same comprising the steps of: providing an intimate mixture of the polymeric material and any surfactant in a liquid medium: providing a fluid freezing medium at a temperature effective for rapidly freezing the liquid medium; cooling the liquid medium with the fluid freezing medium at a temperature below the freezing point of the liquid medium for a period effective to rapidly freeze the liquid medium; and freeze-drying the frozen liquid medium to form the porous bodies by removal of the liquid medium by sublimation.



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